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SELECTMEN

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TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

DAVID J. KALE

ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

PHYLLIS L. MARSHALL

April 11, 2014

Dear Town Meeting Members:

Enclosed please find the Warrant for the **Annual Town Meeting** scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on **Monday, May 5, 2014** at the Belmont High School Auditorium.

Should the business of the Annual Town Meeting not conclude on May 5th, the meeting will be continued to 7:00 p.m. on the following dates, as required:

- Wednesday, May 7, 12, 14th at the Belmont High School Auditorium
- Monday, June 2, 4, 9, 11th at the Chenery Middle School Auditorium

As you will see from the attached materials, the Annual Town Meeting Warrant includes twenty-seven (27) articles. The Board of Selectmen made a request that the Town Moderator consider making some adjustments to articles between Segment A in May and Segment B in June. The Town Moderator has agreed to move the proposed Amendment to the Minuteman Regional Vocational High School Regional Agreement to Segment B. As a result, the zoning by-law articles for Medical Marijuana Overlay District and the Requirement for 'As-Built' Plan Submission and Approval are moved to Segment A. The non-financial articles are described below. Information on the financial articles contained in Segment B will be distributed prior to June 2, 2014.

SEGMENT A – May 2014

Article 1: Reports - Board of Selectman, Board, Committees and Other Town Officials.

Article 2: Authorization to Represent the Town's Legal Interest - This article is traditional and authorizes the Board of Selectmen to represent the Town's legal interests. This authority is clearly identified in the Massachusetts General Laws and the General Bylaws of the Town of Belmont.

Article 4: Use of Public Land Bylaw – Lone Tree Hill, Belmont Conservation Land - This article sets forth permitted uses and prohibitions on the Lone Tree Hill Conservation Land. It provides the Police Department with the authority to enforce the provisions of this Bylaw and if necessary issue tickets for violations.

Article 5: Amend General Bylaws for "Criminal History Checks", §60-200 - This article seeks to correct clerical errors.

Article 6: Citizens' Petition – Delete General Bylaw §60-800 I. "Residential Snow Removal" - This article is submitted in the exact form as provided by the Citizens.

Article 7: Citizens' Petition – New General Bylaw Regarding Yard Sales - This article is submitted in the exact form as provided by the Citizens.

Article 8: Amend General Bylaws for “Animals”, §60-200 - This article seeks to bring the Town's kennel regulations into compliance with state law. It addresses licensing of dogs and cats, removal of feces, nuisance or dangerous dogs or other animals, and establishes processes for handling of same.

Article 9: Allow Kennels by Special Permit in Certain Districts - This article was brought to the attention of the Planning Board by Town Counsel who was helping to draft the Animal Control General Bylaw. He argued that this would be an appropriate time to address the zoning associated with regulating kennels.

Article 10: Change Home Occupation Certificate Expiration - This article was requested by the Town Clerk in order to coordinate the expiration of Business Certificates and Home Occupation Certificates.

Article 11: Allow Shared Driveways by Special Permit in Residential Districts - This article was requested by the Director of Community Development. It will allow the Planning Board to grant Special Permits in certain circumstances provided that the driveway meets requirements within the By-Law.

Article 12: Create a Medical Marijuana Overlay District - In the fall of 2012, Massachusetts voters legalized the sale of marijuana for medical use only. In response, the Town adopted a one year moratorium (expires June 30, 2014) in order for the Department of Public Health to promulgate regulations for licensing of dispensaries. This article seeks to regulate the placement of dispensaries and to mitigate their impacts.

Article 13: Require ‘As-Built’ Plan Submission and Approval - This article seeks to insure that all new construction complies with the Zoning By-Laws.

Article 15: FY15 Community Preservation Committee Budget & Projects - This article is a standard article that appropriates funds to support the operations of the Town's Community Preservation Committee and its approved projects. The Community Preservation Fund receives revenues from a 1.5% property tax surcharge to fund the program. The state provides limited matching grant funds to the Town. The total amount for these six CPA projects is \$727,224.

Article 16: FY15 Community Preservation Committee Budget & Projects – Underwood Pool – This article is to implement the recommendations of the Community Preservation Committee, as presented under Article 15, with regard to the partial funding of the Underwood Pool project from Community Preservation Act funds.

Article 17: Underwood Pool Project Appropriation by Borrowing - This article will provide for a portion of the financing, in addition to the CPA funding, for the construction of the new Underwood Pool. The voters approved the exclusion of the principal and interest on any such borrowing from the levy limit (a “Proposition 2½ debt exclusion”) at the annual town election on April 1, 2014.

SEGMENT B – June, 2014 (non-financial articles)

Article 3: Amendment to Minuteman Regional Vocational High School Regional Agreement - This article seeks to make amendments to the Minutemen Regional Vocational High School Agreement. The District Agreement was last amended in 1980. The new District Agreement requires passage by all member communities (16 total) of the Minuteman District in order to take effect. No amendments can be made to this Article.

Summary of Proposed Amendments:

- Uses a four-year rolling average where student enrollment is a factor in determining the annual operating and capital assessment in place of the single year figure;
- Introduces a weighted voting methodology for most School Committee actions;
- Authorizes the Regional School Committee to negotiate terms of the capital assessment for new member communities;
- Establishes a revised procedure for withdrawing from the District;
- Revises the formula by which annual capital costs are assessed; and
- Changes the method for authorizing debt, which would allow a community not supporting the debt to withdraw from the District.

Article 14: Address Citizens' Petition from 2013 Special Town Meeting - This article seeks to address the Citizens Petitioned Moratorium adopted by the 2013 Special Town Meeting. The purpose of this amendment is to promote new development that is compatible with the surrounding built development.

Please be reminded that the Warrant and any additional information can be found in the Town Meeting section of the Town web page at www.Belmont-ma.gov.

The customary Warrant Discussion Night, co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters and the Warrant Committee is scheduled for Monday, April 28, 2014 at 7:00 pm at the Beech Street Center.

We look forward to a productive Annual Town Meeting, and thank you for your continued involvement and participation in our Town's legislative process.

Sincerely,

Andrés T. Rojas, Chair
Sami S. Baghdady, Vice-Chair
Mark A. Paolillo

BOARD OF SELECTMEN